

Childminder Report

Inspection date

4 August 2015

Previous inspection date

15 December 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The childminder does not effectively evaluate the quality of her practice. She does not always identify weaknesses in her teaching and children's learning.
- The childminder does not always complete accurate assessments of children's learning. She does not consistently offer sufficient challenge or ask timely questions to support children's creative thinking and to help prepare children for their next stage in their learning and for school.
- The childminder has not completed the progress check for children aged between two and three years. Parents do not receive a written summary of children's progress during this time.
- The childminder does not give enough support to parents to enhance their children's learning at home.

It has the following strengths

- Children are provided with nutritious food and the childminder provides opportunities for children to go out in the fresh air and develop their physical skills. This contributes towards children learning about healthy lifestyles.
- The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues, and arrangements for safeguarding children are firmly in place.
- The childminder establishes secure, warm, nurturing relationships which helps children to develop confidence and emotional stability.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- complete the progress check for all children between the ages of two and three years and provide parents with a written summary of their children's development in the prime areas of learning
- implement effective planning and assessment systems so that all children are challenged to make consistently good progress.

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- evaluate regularly the quality of teaching and learning to identify areas in need of development
- improve systems to share regular information with parents regarding their children's learning and development, to promote children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked through children's assessment records and reviewed a selection of records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability of the childminder and adult members of the household, and evidence of the childminder's training.

Inspector

Emma Allison

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

The quality of teaching is variable. Despite the childminder's early years qualification, some aspects of learning are less well planned for. The childminder does not always use the information gained from routine assessments of children's learning to plan activities that consistently challenge them and help all children to make consistently good progress. Children have access to a range of resources to enable them to make choices in their learning. The childminder provides a running commentary as children play. However, the childminder does not always maximise opportunities to develop children's creative thinking skills. She does not always offer skilful and timely questions to enhance children's learning. The childminder has not completed the required progress check for children aged between two and three years. Parents are invited to contribute to their children's starting points on entry. However, strategies to support parents to continue their children's learning at home are not always successful.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

The childminder forms warm relationships with the children. She offers a flexible settling-in policy to help the parents and children feel well settled. The childminder supports children to manage their personal needs and to do things for themselves. Children are supported to complete self-care routines and the childminder highlights the importance of washing their hands before mealtimes and after using the bathroom. This supports good hygiene practices and children's independence skills. The childminder provides a safe and welcoming environment for children. She takes full opportunity to explore the local amenities and takes children on regular trips and outings. The childminder is a good role model and has clear boundaries and expectations in place. This helps children to be well behaved and they share and take turns with each other.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

Since her last inspection, the childminder has identified areas for development, however, this does not yet focus on the quality of her teaching and children's learning. The childminder does not demonstrate a thorough understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has attended training courses in order to shape her professional development and has recently completed a paediatric first-aid course. However, she does not yet focus on more specific areas to improve her knowledge and skills to help improve children's achievements. The childminder places high priority on providing a safe environment for children. She has a well-documented safeguarding policy in place. She is aware of who to contact should a child need appropriate external support.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY431042
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	874560
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	1
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	15 December 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2011 and lives in Durham. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder receives funding for free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She holds a childcare qualification at level 3.

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